

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

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1. (Original) A method of moderating traffic load on network servers in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the method comprising:

    permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through a proxy server to the mail server; and

    delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined period of time.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on the amount of traffic load on the network.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on past behavior of the mail client.

5. (Presently Amended) ~~The method of claim 4, further A~~

method of moderating traffic load on network servers in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the method comprising:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through a proxy server to the mail server;

delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined period of time that is dynamically determined based on past behavior of the mail client; and

*A* transmitting a message to the mail client providing information that the mail client's mail requests will be delayed as a result of the mail client's past behavior.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein transmitting a message comprises providing instructions on how to modify mail client software.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined condition is a combination of a predetermined time period and receipt of a notification from the mail server that mail has been received for the mail client at the mail server, whichever occurs first.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the

predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on the amount of traffic load on the network.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on past behavior of the mail client.

10. (Presently Amended) ~~The method of claim 9, further A~~  
method of moderating traffic load on network servers in a network  
where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one  
mail server, the method comprising:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through  
a proxy server to the mail server;

delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the  
proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied,  
wherein the predetermined condition is a combination of a  
predetermined time period and receipt of a notification from the  
mail server that mail has been received for the mail client at  
the mail server, whichever occurs first, and wherein the  
predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on  
past behavior of the mail client; and

transmitting a message to the mail client providing information that the mail client's mail requests will be delayed as a result of the mail client's past behavior.

11. (Presently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method of moderating traffic load on network servers in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the method comprising:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through a proxy server to the mail server; and

delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied;

wherein delaying subsequent mail requests includes attenuating transmission of the subsequent mail requests.

12. (Presently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method of moderating traffic load on network servers in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the method comprising:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through a proxy server to the mail server; and

delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied;

wherein delaying subsequent mail requests is suspended in the event it is determined that a user is manually initiating rapidly repeated mail requests.

13. (Presently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method of

moderating traffic load on network servers in a network where  
electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail  
server, the method comprising:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through  
a proxy server to the mail server; and

delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the  
proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied;

wherein delaying subsequent mail requests is achieved by  
inserting multiple delays that are inserted at different points  
in a mail protocol.

14. (Original) A proxy server for use in a network where  
electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail  
server, the proxy server comprising:

a processor, and

a memory including software instructions adapted to enable  
the proxy server to perform the steps of:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass

through the proxy server to the mail server; and

delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at  
the proxy server until a predetermined condition has  
been satisfied.

15. (Original) The proxy server of claim 14, wherein the

predetermined condition is a predetermined period of time.

16. (Original) The proxy server of claim 15, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on the amount of traffic load on the network.

17. (Original) The proxy server of claim 15, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on past behavior of the mail client.,

18. (Presently Amended) ~~The proxy server of claim 17, wherein the memory further includes software instructions to enable the proxy server to perform the step of:~~ A proxy server for use in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the proxy server comprising:

a processor, and

a memory including software instructions adapted to enable the proxy server to perform the steps of:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through the proxy server to the mail server;

delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined period of time that is dynamically

determined based on past behavior of the mail client;

and

transmitting a message to the mail client providing information that the mail client's mail requests will be delayed as a result of the mail client's past behavior.

19. (Original) The proxy server of claim 14, wherein the predetermined condition is a combination of a predetermined time period and receipt of a notification from the mail server that mail has been received for the mail client at the mail server, whichever occurs first.

20. (Original) The proxy server of claim 17, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on the amount of traffic load on the network.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Presently Amended) ~~The proxy server of claim 14,~~ A proxy server for use in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the proxy server comprising:

a processor, and

a memory including software instructions adapted to enable  
the proxy server to perform the steps of:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass  
through the proxy server to the mail server; and  
delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at  
the proxy server until a predetermined condition has  
been satisfied;

A wherein delaying subsequent mail requests is suspended in the event it is determined that a user is manually initiating rapidly repeated mail requests.

24. (Presently Amended) ~~The proxy server of claim 14,~~ A proxy server for use in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the proxy server comprising:

a processor, and

a memory including software instructions adapted to enable  
the proxy server to perform the steps of:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass  
through the proxy server to the mail server; and  
delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at  
the proxy server until a predetermined condition has  
been satisfied;



wherein delaying subsequent mail requests is achieved by inserting multiple delays that are inserted at different points in a mail protocol.

25. (Presently Amended) ~~The proxy server of claim 14,~~ A proxy server for use in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the proxy server comprising:

a processor, and

a memory including software instructions adapted to enable the proxy server to perform the steps of:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through the proxy server to the mail server; and delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied;

wherein delaying subsequent mail requests includes attenuating transmission of the subsequent mail requests.

26. (Original) A method of moderating traffic load on network servers in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the method comprising:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through

a proxy server to the mail server;

applying remedial handling of subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied, the remedial handling being selected from the group consisting of: delaying and attenuating; and

transmitting a message to the mail client providing information that the mail client's mail requests will be delayed as a result of the mail client's past behavior

wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined period of time that is dynamically determined based on past behavior of the mail client.

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